Given

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Chapter 10

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given

Natsuki Kizu
presents

code.10

given

MUTTER

clutch

HAA...

AHH...

BA-

THIS IS JUST...

...GETTING WORSE.

WHOA.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S WRONG?

FLOP

OH MAN.

SNAP

THE STRING...

HENO-YAMA.

...

DON'T WE HAVE ANY SPARES?!

POP!!

AH!

THE STRING SNAPPED?

WHAT'S WITH THAT END OF THE WORLD LOOK YOU GOT THERE?!

GASP

...!

EXIT

RUN DOWN TO THE STATION AND BUY A NEW ONE!

YOU ALSO DID THAT...

...THE FIRST TIME IT HAP-PENED.

IF IT'S BROKEN, YOU JUST GOTTA FIX IT!

"CAN YOU..

...FIX THIS?"

BA-THUMP

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FIXED IT, WEREN'T YOU?

THUD

TSK!

THUD

"OF COURSE!"

AKIHITO.

MUKYMUK

TSK.

I'LL BE BACK!

ASH

I'M SORRY!

SORRY.

NOW'S NOT REALLY A GOOD TIME.

ARE THINGS OKAY?

UM...

TAKE CARE...

...OF RITSUKA.

WATANA INSTRUMENTS

pant

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE!

ONLY

WHACK

Watch it!

pant

AM I AN IDIOT?

pant

IT WAS ME WHO TOLD HIM TO SING.

THAT GUY...

IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND HIM.

BUT HE STILL ALWAYS TRIES TO MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS.

"I WENT TO THE LIGHT MUSIC CLUB."

"I LEARNED HOW TO CHANGE THE STRINGS."

I...

BAM

I GOT THE STRINGS!

pant

pant

...!

I JUST ASKED THE GROUP AHEAD OF US TO PLAY TWO OR THREE MORE SONGS...

And well, that's how many less we get.

!?

THAT WAS FAST! THE PERKS OF BEING YOUNG, I SEE!

Anyway, go cool your head until we're up.

Cut that out.

YESSIR!

AH...

THANKS..

BUILD UP YOUR COURAGE WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE TIME.

I'M GONNA GIVE THE AUDIO GUY OUR REVISED SETLIST.

GET UP

OH, I'LL GO, TOO.

MAFUYU.

CAN I CHANGE THE STRINGS?

!

GRAB

LOOK AT ME.

HARUKI!

HARUK !

WH-AT?

HEY!

avert

ERR, FOR THE BAND YOU MEAN?

IF SO, I DON'T REALLY DO MUCH.

I MEAN FOR ME.

HUH? WHAT?

I GOTTA SAY,

YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF IT YOURSELF,

BUT I SERIOUSLY BEL EVE YOU'RE A CONSTANT SAVIOR.

...HUH?

MY OLD SELF...

...WAS A PISSY GUY.

smile

SO THANKS FOR...

...INVITING ME INTO THE BAND.

bam

fang

thunk

...HEY, HARUKI.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY!

I might end up dying.

Shock!

Whoa, dude. Why're you like, raising your death flag here?!

IT'S OKAY TO THINK MORE OF YOURSELF.

I THINK THE HEART IS LIKE THE STRINGS ON A GUITAR.

SNAP

CHAAAAN

SNAP

WHEN THINGS ARE PA NFUL, HARD, AND HOPELESS,

IT HURTS AS IF THE STR NG AROUND YOUR CHEST IS SNAPPING,

JUST LIKE A GUITAR STRING BEING STRETCHED TO ITS ..MIT

SNAP

...WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO REPLACE THAT STRING FOR YOU LIKE THIS,

BUT...

...YOU THINK THAT IT CAN'T BE FIXED ANYMORE,

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT SNAPS OFF AND

I WONDER IF IT'D HELP THE WOUND TO HEAL ..

...JUST A BIT?

tighten

THUD
thunk

I...

MAFUYU.

...LOVE YOUR SOUND.

I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE ENCOURAGING YOU.

BUT IT TURNS OUT IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

SINCE YOU CAME,

MY SOUND HAS BEEN ALL OVER THE PLACE AND IT'S A STRAINED MESS.

ARGH, DAMN IT

RUSTLE

IT'S WAY MORE FUN NOW.

BUT COMPARED TO WHEN I WAS PLAYING THE SET CHORDS,

I GUESS... I'M ALSO BAD AT...

...PUTTING THINGS INTO WORDS.

CHEER

THANK YOU ALL!

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT LONGER FOR THE NEXT BAND!

WE'RE OUT NOW! FORGIVE US!

APPLAUSE

APPLAUSE

Good job guys

DESPITE APPEARANCES, LENOYAMA'S PRETTY FAMOUS AT THE LIVE HOUSES AROUND HERE

WELL, THE OTHER TWO ARE DAMN GOOD AS WELL.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME COMING, BUT THERE'RE SO MANY PEOPLE.

THERE SURE ARE.

THAT GUY CAN CREATE ORIGINAL MUSIC TO COMPETE WITH.

HE DEFINITELY STANDS OUT AMONGST THE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE SCENE, AND HE'S GREAT AT GUITAR.

REALLY?

LIKE HIS INDIE ALBUM SOLD OUT HELLA FAST.

WE ARE GETTING READY

SINCE UENOYAMA ASKED HIM TO JOIN, I'VE GOT HOPES FOR SATOU.

IN DROVES

AH,

THEY LEFT THE MIC THERE.

Here we go

IT'S NOT IN THE WAY OR ANYTHING. IT'S FINE TO JUST LEAVE THE MIC THERE, YEAH?

PLUS, YOU AREN'T SINGING, RIGHT?

...

Or was it you doing the backing laiala's?

DID YOU MANAGE TO BLOW OFF YOUR WORRIES, HECCHI?

HEY, NOW. YOU'RE LOSING YOUR FOCUS!

SPACED OUT

Ker-pow

Are you looking?

!

MAFUYU!

WHEN THE STRING FLEW OFF, KIND OF..

CLATTER

STRUM

WELL, THERE'S NO POINT IN LISTING OFF THINGS WE CAN'T DO AFTER COMING TH S FAR.

TA-TANG

TAP

SHING

LET'S HAVE FUN.

click

ba-thump

ba-thump

I ALWAYS...

WHINE

HOW TO DO IT THE WAY OTHER PEOPLE DO

WITH THINGS LIKE CRYING OR LAUGHING

I JUST CAN'T EXPRESS THOSE THINGS WELL

WHOOSH

WAAH!!

THINK ABOUT HOW I SHOULD REACT

I'VE GOT NO IDEA ABOUT

WE ARE READY

THAT'S HOW IT SEEMS.

COMPARED TO OTHERS, I TOTALLY FEEL LIKE I'M THE WORST AT EXPRESSING MYSELF

HOLD

STOMP

BUT...

...EVEN SO,

SLUMP

bar-thump

bar-thump

"I GUESS... I'M ALSO BAD AT...

...PUTTING THINGS INTO WORDS."

IN TRUTH...

IN TRUTH, I'VE ALWAYS...

Wait

SHOCK

...JUST...

WHO

CRY

...WANTED SOMEONE TO COMPLETELY GET HOW I FEEL.

TO GET WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE UNABLE TO CRY OUT THE AGONY AND PAIN DESPITE WANTING TO SO BADLY.

BUT JUST
THIS LITTLE
BIT MAKES ME
CONTENT.